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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,818	02/22/2002	Thomas Dean Gulley	46893/DRK/S1050	9926

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CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP  
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EXAMINER
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KYLE, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/080,818

Applicant(s)

GULLEY, THOMAS DEAN

Examiner

Michael J. Kyle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-12 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-12,14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (APA) in view of Flamme (U.S. Patent No. 5,561,886) in view of Kent et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,938). APA discloses a barrel hinge comprising a cylindrical female barrel portion (4b, see applicant's figures 1 and 2) consisting essentially of a cylindrical sidewall, an axial bore extending from end to end, and first and second male barrel portions (4a, 4c) consisting essentially of cylindrical main bodies. The cylindrical sidewall of the female barrel portion is welded in place to a first item. APA also discloses the female barrel portion to comprise seamless cylindrical tubing. Furthermore, APA discloses the male and female barrel portions are adapted to be welded to objects (see applicant's figure 2). The outer surfaces of the first and second male barrel portions are welded directly in place to a second item. APA does not disclose the male barrel portions to have a pin extension or for the female barrel portion to include an aperture for a lubricant fitting.

3. Flamme discloses a cylindrical female portion (20) and first and second cylindrical male barrel portions (11, 12). The female barrel portion has a sidewall (21), outside surface, axial bore, and interior wall surface while the male barrel portions have a main body portion (25), outer surface, unitary pin extensions (13), and pin ends (13) substantially as claimed. The two

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male portions are identical and are rotatably received in the female portion. Flamme uses this arrangement to provide for easy assembly and mounting of a door on a body via the hinge column 2, lines 19-32). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify APA as taught by Flamme, in order to provide a hinge that allows for easy mounting and assembly of a door on body, via the hinge. The combination would result in the pin (6) of APA being replaced with the pair of pins (13 and 14) of Flamme. Examiner notes that because pin extension 13 and 14 function with the male barrel portions as a single unit, the pin extensions are considered to be unitary with the barrel portions.

4. Kent et al teaches a female portion (10) with an aperture for a lubricant fitting (58) for the purpose of providing the interior spaces of the cylindrical portions of the hinge with grease.

Grease protects various assemblies from outside contaminants. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a lubricant fitting into an aperture within Flamme's female member in order for the hinge to retain lubrication, which protects the assembly from outside contaminants (col. 11, line 57 – col. 12, line 3). With respect to claim 12, it is noted that "press fitted" appears to be a process limitation in an article claim. As long as the prior art meets all of the structural limitations then it is considered to meet this product by process limitation. In this case, Kent shows the claimed lubricant fitting.

5. With respect to claim 8, APA shows the first and second male portions to be identical.

7. Claims 3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Flamme and Kent et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Huppert, Sr.

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(U.S. Patent No. 5,771,538). The combination of APA, Flamme, and Kent fails to disclose the lubricant fitting as threadably engageable with the female barrel portion.

8. Huppert teaches a lubricant fitting (16) which is threadably engaged (col. 2, lines 7-8) with the barrel portion (14). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fasten the lubricant fitting with threads to the female barrel portion so that one can readily remove a grease removing instrument without the lubricant fitting falling off (col. 2, lines 13-14).

9. Claims 2 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Flamme and Kent et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Dodge (U.S. Patent No. 132,147). The combination of APA, Flamme, and Kent et al fails to disclose bevels as claimed by applicant.

10. Dodge teaches the ends of a female barrel portion as outwardly beveled (c) and the main portions of the male portions as also outwardly beveled (at 1, see figure 2) to form a groove in interface regions where the bevels at the ends of the female barrel portion are adjacent to bevels where the pin extensions extend from the main body portions, so that when the portions are connected together, the joint is so closed as to exclude rain and dust which would otherwise get into the socket and displace the lubricant and wear away the surfaces (col. 2, last full paragraph). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to bevel the edges of Flamme's portions in order to prevent dust and rain from entering the hinge. It is noted that the limitation "outwardly" is a relative term, and in this claim, it is not describe as to which element the bevel extends outwardly from. On the female portion the bevel

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extends outwardly relative to the body and longitudinal axis of that portion. The bevel of the male portion also extends outwardly relative to those elements.

11. Claims 6, 7, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over APA in view of Flamme and Kent et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Simpson (U.S. Patent No. 470,514). Flamme discloses the pin extensions of the male portions as machined at one end thereof but fails to disclose using solid bar stock or solid cylindrical stock to make the male barrel portions as claimed.

12. Simpson teaches male portions (A, B) constructed from solid bar stock or solid cylindrical stock. The selection of a known material based upon its suitability for the intended use is a design consideration within the skill of the art. In re Leshin, 227 F.2d 197, 125 USPQ 416 (CCPA 1960). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use bar stock or tube stock for Flamme's invention since bar stock and cylindrical stock are known in the art and choosing these materials is a design consideration within the skill of the art.

### ***Response to Arguments***

13. Applicant's arguments filed November 7, 2006, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that the benefit of easy alignment from the use of the pins taught by Flamme has nothing to do with the claimed invention, the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the

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suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

### ***Conclusion***

14. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

15. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Kyle whose telephone number is 571-272-7057. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

17. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 571-272-7075. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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18. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

mk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katherine Mitchell", with a stylized, cursive script.

**Katherine Mitchell**  
**Primary Examiner**